

CLAIMS

1. A data processing system for executing at least one program to which access by a user is controlled by the provision of credentials assigned to said user, said system including:

5 - at least one terminal including data processing means for executing at least part of said program,

- first memory means associated with said program for storing at least first credentials specific to said user, and

10 - access control means for authorizing access to said program in response to a match between said first credentials stored in said first memory means and second credentials applied via said terminal to said program,

-at least one security device personal to said user, associated with said terminal and including second memory means for secure storage of said second credentials,

15 -said terminal including at least some of credentials management means (CMP) including:

- means for reading and transmitting credentials to read said second credentials stored in said second memory means and transmit them to said access control means in response to presentation of a request to access said program, and
- credentials updating means for selectively commanding the generation and loading into said first and second memory means of new credentials replacing said first and second credentials previously stored.

25 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said access control means authorize access to said program in response to identity of said first and second credentials.

30 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said second memory means store a first identification code of said user, said terminal includes interface means for applying a second identification code to said personal security device and said personal security device comprises identification code validation means, access to said personal security device being authorized by said validation means in response to identity of said first and second identification codes.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said credentials updating means comprises generating means to generate said new credentials automatically and to transmit them directly to said first and second memory means without communicating said new credentials to said user.

5 5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said credentials management means are software means forming part of said program.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said credentials updating means comprises generating means to generate and load said new credentials into said first and second memory means consecutively upon authorization of access by said 10 access control means.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said credentials management means include dating means for dating and loading into at least one of said memory means the date at which said credentials are generated and inhibitor means for authorizing generation of said new credentials by said updating means only after a particular time 15 has elapsed since the generation of said credentials stored in said memory means.

8. A system according to claims 1, wherein said credentials management means are software means independent of said program.

9. A system according to claim 3, wherein said credentials management means are software means independent of said program and said credentials 20 updating means comprises generating means to generate and load said new credentials into said first and second memory means consecutively upon validation of said identification code by said validation means.

10. A system according to either claim 9, wherein said credentials management means include dating means for dating and loading into at least one of said memory means the date at which said credentials are generated and inhibitor means for authorizing generation of said new credentials by said updating means only after a particular time has elapsed since the generation of said credentials stored in said memory means.

11. A system according to claim 1, wherein said program is stored and 30 executed wholly within said terminal for local execution of said application.

12. A system according to claim 1, wherein said system includes at least one server and transmission means for transmitting data between said terminal and said server, said program is stored and executed partly in said terminal and partly in said server, and said first memory means are associated with said server.